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Paw Paw's Briggs Dam receiving makeover

In photos, the covered bridge is shown removed from Briggs Pond, Paw Paw, as work continues to replace the dam. A Courier-Leader file photo shows the covered bridge in 2021. Another photo shows an artist's rendering of the new covered bridge that will be placed, looking southwest.
Top and middle photos/Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod
Bottom photo courtesy/Village of Paw Paw

Following the partial failure and subsequent repair of Briggs Dam in 2017, the State of Michigan's Dam Safety Division recommended the complete replacement of the spillway as a long-term solution.

The Village of Paw Paw has been working with a team from Barr Engineering in Minneapolis, Minnesota to design a new, modern spillway that would serve as a permanent water control structure where the Paw Paw River enters Maple Lake.

Earlier this year, Millbocker & Sons Construction from Allegan, Michigan was chosen as the company that will remove the existing spillway and construct the new one.

The new spillway will be a 'labyrinth' style weir. Air' is the portion of a dam that is used to manage water levels and is designed to allow the river to flow over its crest. While known as Briggs Dam, the structure itself is technically a weir, in the sense that it is not designed to completely stop the flow of water but simply control its flow.

The capacity of a weir to flow water is determined by its length, height and shape. Rather than a straight, linear wall, a labyrinth weir is folded along its length like an accordion (see renderings), which greatly increases its length within the relatively narrow channel of the river, allowing for a higher flow rate during periods of heavier rain and higher water levels.

The new, higher-flow weir will have a small footprint within the space-constrained area yet meet modern standards for 200-year flood events, thereby relieving pressure on those elements of the existing dam and spillway remaining once the project is complete. In short, the new structure will be stronger and more efficient than the existing dam and spillway.

The project is expected to cost approximately $3 million, with approximately $2 million coming from State of Michigan legislative awards facilitated by Senator Aric Nesibitt.

After several years of planning, the project is currently underway as the covered bridge has been recently removed and is expected to continue through the end of the year.

Bloomingdale's Oktoberfest opens Friday, September 19th

Bloomingdale's Oktoberfest 2025 will kick off on Friday, Sept. 19, at Augustus Haven Park, here, for a three-day run, and will conclude on Sunday, Sept. 21. The festival will feature a wide variety of events and activities for all ages.

On Friday, a steel drum performance will be held in the park. The beer tent and food trucks will open at 5 p.m. A DJ and music trivia will wrap up the night, beginning at 7 p.m.

Saturday's events will open with a breakfast at Korner St. Café. Vendors and food trucks will be in and around the park. The Van Buren District Library Bloomindale Branch will hold a book sale. Helicopter rides will be available, in addition to a petting zoo and face painting. Galvan Industries will sponsor a car show. An inflatable bounce house will also be in the park.

Other events and activities on Saturday include a quarter auction, a cornhole tournament, cloggers, music, a blacksmith, cow pie bingo and the beer tent. The day's activities will conclude with a dance party and fireworks.

Oktoberfest will wrap up Sunday with a pancake breakfast at the Bloomingdale Fire Department from 8 to 11 a.m.

State Police investigate fatal crash

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

ANTWERP TWP. A 41-year-old Paw Paw man was killed Saturday afternoon, Sept. 13, in a head-on crash in Antwerp Township, according to a press release from the Michigan State Police Paw Paw Post.

Troopers said the crash occurred at 2:15 p.m. on Red Arrow Highway near 25th Street. MSP reported a Dodge passenger car and Jeep SUV collided head-on while traveling on Red Arrow Highway.

Circumstances of crash are unclear, according to MSP. The driver of the Dodge, a 41-year-old Paw Paw man, succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to MSP. The driver of Jeep sustained minor injuries.

Both drivers were wearing seatbelts. MSP said it is unknown if alcohol or drugs were a factor. MSP was assisted by Van Buren County Sheriff's Office EMS, and Mattawan Fire and Police.

The investigation is ongoing.

Young girl allegedly steals truck, vehicle pursuit by authorities follows

GENEVA TWP. - An adolescent girl faces several charges after she was arrested after allegedly taking a stolen truck on a vehicle pursuit Thursday, Sept. 11, in Geneva Township, according to the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 10:20 a.m., Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies responded to a stolen vehicle complaint on County Road 388 in Geneva Township.

A caller said an unknown girl had gotten into his truck and drove off while he was outside of the vehicle making a delivery.

Deputies responded to the area and located the truck traveling eastbound on County Road 388 near Grand Junction. A Sheriff's deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle when the suspect fled.

During the vehicle pursuit, which lasted several miles, speeds reached 100 mph. Units assisting in the pursuit successfully deployed stop sticks, which led to the vehicle coming to a stop in a field on County Road 384.

The suspect, a juvenile girl, was taken into custody without incident.

Her guardians were contacted, and she was transported to the Allegan Juvenile Detention Center. She faces charges of fleeing and eluding police and unlawful driving away of an automobile.

SHAES honors 911 victims by standing guard, climbing stairs

To commemorate Patriot Day and in honor of the 343 members of FDNY who perished on September 11, 2001, the South Haven Area Emergency Services Honor Guard on Thursday stood guard at the downtown South Haven Firefighters Memorial. The vigil ran from 8:46 a.m. when the first plane hit the north tower to 10:28 a.m. when the tower collapsed. Simultaneously, at the department's training building, other SHAES members climbed 2071 stairs emblematic of the 110 stories of the north tower in memory of the fallen firefighters.

Photos by Tom Renner

Jazz takes center stage at South Haven festival

A variety of artist were featured at the South Haven Jazz Festival held last weekend. Pictured are a few of those artists.

Photos by Tom Renner

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Search continues for new South Haven High School principal

By James Windell

South Haven High School has started the 2025-2026 school year without a principal. The high school has been without a principal since June, 2025 when Joe Allen resigned to become Superintendent of Covert Public Schools.

At the South Haven Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, Superintendent of South Haven Schools Ana Aleman-Putman announced that although the search for a new principal continues, Wendy Dubuisson has stepped into a temporary role of interim administrator at the high school fulfilling some of the duties of a principal.

"She's has a strong instructional leadership background and is extremely intelligent and organized," said Aleman-Putman after the meeting, "and she is willing to do whatever it takes. Her organization and natural talents are a real asset to South Haven Public Schools."

Wendy was formerly a teacher for South Haven Public Schools, the Director of Special Education for Fennville Schools, and she served as an elementary school principal for Caledonia Community Schools.

In the meantime, in a brief interview prior to the Board of Education meeting, Aleman-Putman said that three candidates for the high school principal position are being interviewed this week.

South Haven officials discuss lifeguard program in Saturday workshop

By James Windell

The mayor, the City Council and various South Haven city officials met in a Saturday workshop on September 13, 2025, to brainstorm ideas for a lifeguard program.

Double Haul Solutions, a consulting firm hired by the City of South Haven to help bring about a lifeguard program, conducted the workshop that met in the Northside Municipal Marina and went from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The intent of the workshop was to explore all of the aspects of a lifeguard program and generate ideas to help implement and fund a beach safety program that would be right for South Haven's needs.

Earlier this year, City Manager Kate Hosier asked the City Council to discuss and consider a motion for the City to hire a management firm to design and implement a lifeguard program that could potentially be in place by Memorial Day, 2026.

At the time, Hosier stated that "I don't have the capacity and my staff does not have the capacity to start a complete program out of nowhere." She went on to say that she was asking the City Council for permission to get a professional services agreement with the project management firm of Double Haul Solutions (DHS) to help track, design and implement and hire people for Memorial Day next year. The City Council approved Hosier's request in May, 2025.

Although there hasn't been a drowning at any one of the City's beaches in three years, Lake Michigan features dangerous winds and currents that result in several drownings every year along the states' western coastline.

During Saturday's workshop, a representative from DHS acknowledged that there has been a great deal of discussion both during the workshop and at previous City Council meetings about implementing a lifeguard program as soon as possible. He said, however, that DHS wanted to help the City implement "a successful program" – rather than one that was put together without consideration of all of the risks and implications of a lifeguard program.

Among the topics discussed during the workshop were such things as whether a lifeguard program would align with the City's strategic plan and the City's priorities; who will benefit from such a program; the potential adverse effects of a lifeguard program; the annual cost of a lifeguard program; and the various ways a lifeguard program could be funded.

Although it may cost as much as $300,000 a year to run a lifeguard program, DHS presented a number of ideas for funding a program. The project and consulting firm did not recommend a potential revenue source, but such funding options as a millage, a special assessment, and eliminating current City services were discussed.

The workshop ended with DHS recommending that all of those in attendance think about the City's priorities and consider what kinds of funding strategies would be most acceptable to the City. DHS will continue to work with the City Council and City officials to answer some of the many questions raised during the workshop's discussion.

"The workshop was a good opportunity for our City Council members to listen to the homework and options that DHS presented to us," said Mayor Annie Brown following the workshop. "We all agree that beach safety is a top priority. Our next step is to do some homework and take some time to think about what beach safety will look like."

Community invited to Paw Paw Adventist Church for final Empire Series

PAW PAW – Following a tumultuous election year, as millions of Americans consider the future of the United States, some are taking a step back to consider the nation's origins. How did the idea of the United States germinate? What forces were at play at the beginning? What role did religion really have in the formation of the nation? And what can history teach us as we consider the decisions America faces today?

Beginning Sept. 26, Paw Paw Adventist Church presents Final Empire, a multi-part documentary-style series that explores these questions in detail, comparing the prophecies of the Bible with the evidence of history. In addition, Final Empire will explore what Bible prophecy says about the challenges the United States faces today.

The series, hosted by Voice of Prophecy Speaker/Director Shawn Boonstra, will compare history with the Bible to address questions such as:

Was the United States really founded as a Christian nation?

What steps can Americans take today to preserve their religious liberties? What role did ancient world events have in the formation of the United States?

Following each documentary presentation, local moderator Sean Reed will lead a discussion on the session's topic.

Admission is free and all attendees will receive a copy of Boonstra's book, Final Empire.

"We're going to talk about America, what it was supposed to be, and what's happening in the nation today," said Boonstra. "Ultimately, during Final Empire, we want to give people the opportunity to learn how to study Bible prophecy and find answers for themselves."

Topics will include "Republic Rising," Christianity Corrupted," "The Earth Opens Up," and "America's Last Stand."

Final Empire begins Friday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. at Paw Paw Adventist Church, 60409 M-40 Highway, Paw Paw, and continues Sept. 27-28, Oct. 3-5. Resister to attend on site during this free event by visiting: www.FinalEmpire.com/fe/2466.

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Lawton Village Council approves purchase of new leaf vacuum

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

Lawton – At the Sept. 9, Lawton Village Council meeting, council members approved a quote from MTech for the purchase of a new leaf vacuum for $281,625.

Lawton Village Manager Todd Hackenberg told council members that he had looked at several trucks and made the recommendation for this purchase as it was a good fit and budget friendly for the village.

Village Manager Hackenberg said the new leaf vacuum would cut down on manpower and allow the Village of Lawton Department of Public Works to focus on other tasks as well. Instead of having all four DPW employees doing the leaves as the weather allows, the new leaf vacuum will allow one person to do the leaves, freeing up overtime, and allowing DPW staff to be able to do their necessary tasks, according to Hackenberg. However, he said, residents will need to ensure that there is no brush, rocks, or other debris in their leaf piles.

With a reduction in manpower on the leaf vacuum, if there is brush in a leaf pile, the DPW will move on to the next home, and residents with items other than leaves will not be picked up until those objects are removed.

Village Manager Hackenberg said there is an option for a five-year lease on the truck, so the village would not need to pay the full amount outright but would do so over that five-year timespan in smaller increments of approximately $64,000 per year. Hackenberg said the village would see drastic savings over time, citing that last year, the village spent over $70,000 on labor and equipment on leaf pick up.

The village council approved a water reliability study from Wightman and Asssociates, not to exceed $23,800.

The water reliability study is mandated by EGLE every five years, and the village is now due for an updated study. The study will analyze the reliability of the village water system for peak flow.

The village council approved to change the village's long-term disability insurance, short-term disability insurance, life insurance, dental, and vision from Kansas City Life to Colonial Life Insurance Company.

In another area, it was announced that the Lawton DDA will hold a golf cart parade on Sunday, Oct. 5.

The Lawton Village Planning Commission/ Village Council will hold a joint meeting on Oct. 7.

South Haven Speakers Series tackled immigration

By James Windell

An audience of more than 120 people heard Professor David Thronson speak about immigration at Lake Michigan College – South Haven Campus on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

If the audience had failed to grasp the irony of the talk occurring on the same day as the 24th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S., Thronson made it clear: If there was any chance of immigration reform prior to that day, the possibility of meaningful reform was destroyed by the events of 9-11.

David Thronson, a professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law since 2010, and a leading expert on family law and immigration, emphasized on more than one occasion during his address entitled "The Impact of Immigration law on Families" that while the immigration system is a broken system that doesn't meet our needs, "don't expect any reform anytime soon."

Thronson pointed out in the opening minutes of his talk that almost 300,000 children in Michigan have at least one immigrant parent. And in the U.S., nearly 18 million families have at least one person who lacks a lawful immigration status.

From 2019 to 2024, Thronson served as the Director of the Talsky Center for Human Rights and the Alan S. Zekelman Professor of International Humsan Rights Law. He is currently Co-President of the Society of American Law Teachers. He has a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University and a JD from Harvard Law School, where he was Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Human Rights Journal. Previously he taught in the Lawyering Program of New York University School of Law, and he has also taught courses in immigration law, public international law, and international human rights at Seton Hall University School of Law and Hofstra University School of Law.

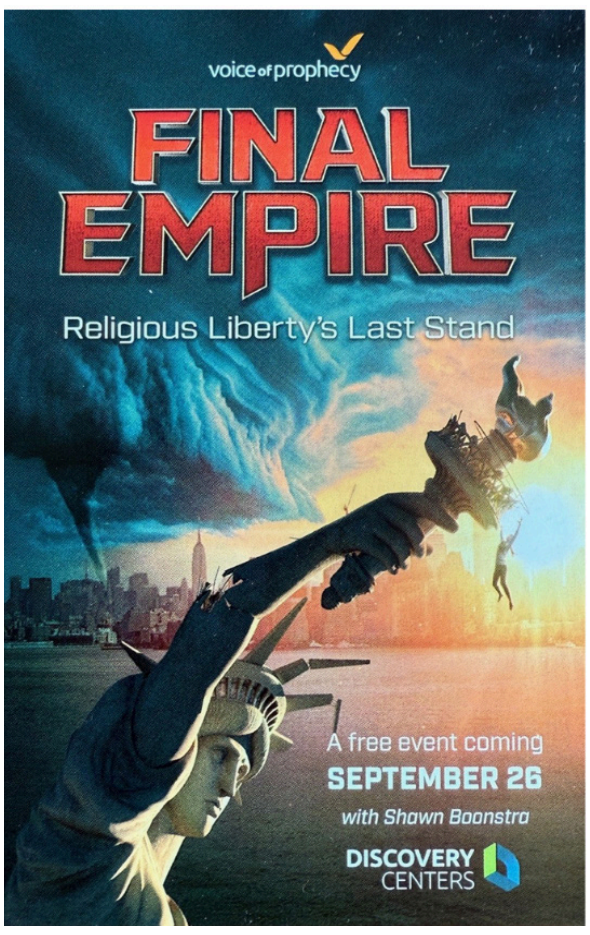
In providing the basics of immigration law to the audience, Thronson stated what became more evident as his talk proceeded – immigration laws and procedures are very complex. Many governmental agencies, both inside and outside of the Department of Homeland Security, are

involved in immigration. Unfortunately, he pointed out, the procedures used currently in dealing with immigration are often more criminal than civil – despite the fact that immigration law is not supposed to be about punishment. "You have a lot of not-appearing-before-a-judge going on," he said.

In our legal tradition, Thronson went on to say, immigration should proceed by our time-honored rule of law, however, lawyers are not provided for people who have illegal immigration status and people who are subject to immigration hearing. "We can illegally deport people," he said. He also noted that children are often separated from their parents and never reunited.

After he concluded his remarks, Thronson responded to questions from the audience. Among his comments as he answered questions was the remark that he observed that "the people most opposed to immigration are those who don't know any immigrants."

Also, one of his final comments was that "Not many bad people are being deported these days" as he offered evidence to show that immigrants – whether legally in our country or illegally residing here – do not engage in as much criminal behavior as our citizens.



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Lietzau receives leadership award

"The Greg Smith Leadership in Action Award, established in 2023 by Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan, honors Greg Smith, a former Statewide Sales Director with over 40 years of service. This distinguished annual award, one of only two named awards conferred by the organization, recognizes a single individual who exemplifies exceptional leadership, characterized by dedication to clients, community, and the organization.

In 2025, Derek Lietzau, owner of the Derek Lietzau Insurance Group in Paw Paw, received this prestigious award. Reflecting on its significance, Derek stated, "This award is deeply meaningful to me as it focuses not on production or numbers, but on the trust built with clients and our team at Farm Bureau Insurance. Over my 13 years as an agency owner, I have been guided by mentors who prioritized integrity. I am passionate about serving clients and mentoring other agents to prioritize client needs over commissions, fostering sustainable success."

Derek's notable achievements include eight All-American Awards, three Executive Awards, six President's Council Awards, six Life Elite designations, six Director's Cup honors, and membership in the Presidium Club for securing over $100 million in life insurance for his community. However, he takes greatest pride in mentoring fellow agents, guiding them to transition from sales agents to trusted community advisors."

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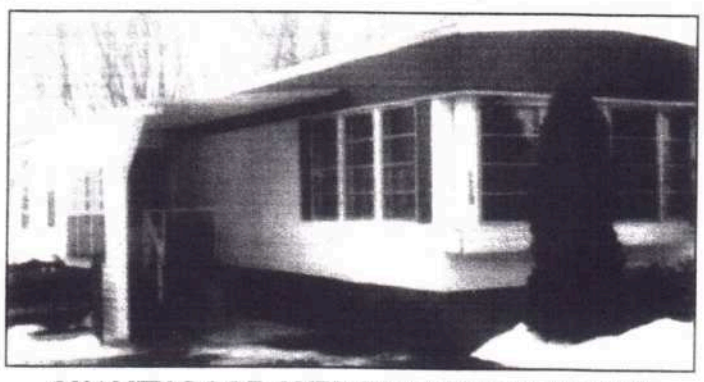

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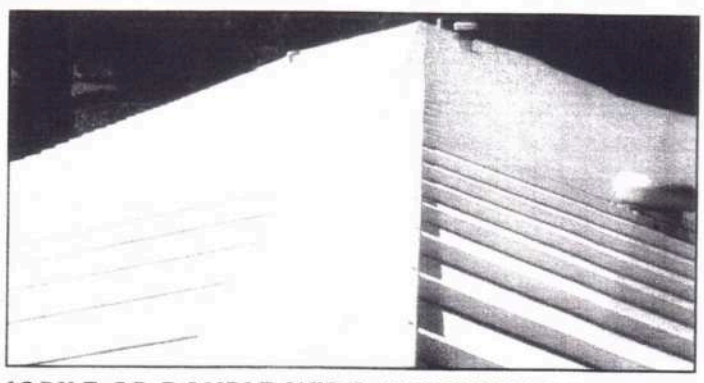

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Trespassing complaint involved firearms

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response was dispatched to a trespassing complaint in Paw Paw Township. "The suspect was trespassed before from a neighbor's property but showed back up again causing a scene in which firearms were involved," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott. The suspect was lodged for the incident.

Uniform Response was dispatched to a suspicious situation/attempted larceny from a motor vehicle in Arlington Township. "The caller observed an individual going through a vehicle on his property and called our dispatch center. A deputy was right down the road and responded. No one was located and nothing was taken during the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response was dispatched to a "consensual fist fight" at a residence in Hamilton Township. Deputies responded to the scene but were unable to locate anyone fighting.

Uniform Response was dispatched to an intoxicated individual causing problems in the City of Hartford. Deputies responded to the scene and resolved the situation.

Uniform Response handled several car larcenies and a UDAA (unlawful driving away automobile) just outside of Mattawan. "The suspects were going from residence to residence checking for vehicles that were unlocked and going through them. Once again, a car was stolen while the suspects were committing crimes. Once again, the car was in Kalamazoo. Once again, the suspects came into our county from there and committed several crimes. With the help of law enforcement agencies in Kalamazoo, suspects are being identified. I cannot stress enough about locking your vehicles, not leaving items that thieves would steal in plain sight in them, not leaving keys in vehicles, etc. A lot of these crimes' thieves pick easy targets," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response was dispatched to a" UDAA that just occurred in Geneva Township. Deputies were in the area and were able to get behind the vehicle to attempt to stop it. The vehicle fled, and deputies were able to deploy stop sticks to deflate the tires during the pursuit. "Right after the tires hit, the vehicle stopped, and the driver was taken into custody. It was a 15-year-old runaway that South Haven Police Department was looking for that had run away earlier that morning," said Sheriff Abbott. She was lodged at the Allegan Juvenile Detention Facility.

Uniform Response was dispatched to a domestic violence call in Lawrence Township. The suspect was found hiding in a closet during the investigation. He was taken into custody on an outstanding felony warrant for drugs as well as other charges.

Uniform Response was dispatched to a domestic violence call in Decatur Township. The juvenile suspect was found hiding on the roof of the residence. The juvenile was transported to the Allegan Juvenile Detention Facility for the incident.

Commissioners approve service agreement to enhance county's cybersecurity

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Commissioners on Monday, Sept. 8, approved a request from the Van Buren County Information Technology Department to enter into a three-year service agreement with OTM Cyber to enhance the county's cybersecurity infrastructure and protection capabilities.

This agreement will provide comprehensive cybersecurity services including but not limited to: 24/7/365 managed detection and response, continuous security monitoring, regular threat activity reporting, incident response support, and the development and refinement of incident response plans.

Commissioners said these services will bolster the county's ability to defend against the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats, providing both proactive and reactive protections critical to securing systems, data, and operations.

The total cost of the agreement is $58,060 per year, billed annually over the course of the three-year term, and is a budgeted expenditure for the IT Department.

Commissioners approved the submission of a Rural Readiness Grant application for $50,000 in support of the Digital Innovation Collaborative Exchange (DICE) initiative.

Van Buren and St. Joseph counties established a bilateral intergovernmental partnership to jointly operate a shared Digital Information Department (DID), which has produced measurable cost savings and expanded digital capacity through the deployment of artificial intelligence, geographic information systems (GIS), and automation services.

The Rural Readiness Grant would support the evolution of this partnership into the Digital Innovation Collaborative Exchange (DICE), a multi-jurisdictional initiative designed to deliver scalable, ethically governed digital services to rural communities throughout Southwest Michigan.

Commissioners said rural governments increasingly face demands to digitize public services, improve transparency, and respond more quickly to residents despite limited staff, funding, and technical infrastructure, and DICE aims to address these challenges by offering shared access to modular, affordable, locally governed digital tools.

If awarded, grant funds would support the formalization of DICE into a regionally governed public-sector utility that expands service delivery to additional counties and municipalities, develops and deploys practical "MicroTools" for permitting, FOIA, digital communications, codification, and website modernization, and launches a non-profit arm to secure long-term funding and manage innovation pilots.

The proposed grant request totals $50,000, with a required $10,000 match to be shared equally between Van Buren and St. Joseph counties, with each contributing $5,000 in in-kind services.

Commissioners authorized Van Buren County's participation in the Purdue Opioid Settlement, approving the amended Michigan State–Subdivision Agreement and designating County Administrator John Faul as the county's representative for all current and future opioid settlements.

The county has already taken part in previous national opioid settlements, which have provided critical funding for local remediation efforts. Joining the Purdue agreement carries no immediate expense but ensures continued eligibility for future settlement dollars.

As a condition of participation, the amended agreement requires new reporting beginning in Fiscal Year 2026. Counties must submit annual reports to the Michigan Attorney General detailing settlement funds received, expenditures, and commitments for future use.

In another, commissioners approved an out-of-state travel request for Van Buren County Prosecuting Attorney Susan Zuiderveen and Assistant Prosecutor Rachel Keeley to attend the Sexual Assault Investigation Academy in Lancaster, Ohio, from Sept. 15 - 19, with reimbursement for mileage, accommodations, and meals.

Commissioners approved a resolution that calls upon state representatives and senators to preserve and grow MI Choice by ensuring full and sustainable funding of the program.

Commissioners acknowledged the substantial value of MI Choice to the residents of Van Buren County and the significant cost savings it delivers to the State of Michigan's Medicaid program. Commissioners affirmed that while MI Choice is not a mandatory Medicaid program, it is not optional - it is essential - and must be preserved as a cornerstone of Michigan's long-term care network.

Commissioners said Michiganders overwhelmingly prefer to age in place in their own homes and local communities. The Baby Boomer generation begins turning 80 years of age in 2026, further increasing demand for in-home and community-based services.

The Medicaid MI Choice Waiver Program currently provides essential in-home services and supports more than 16,000 older adults and individuals with disabilities each year. Managed primarily by Area Agencies on Aging, the MI Choice program offers a comprehensive array of services including community living support, home-delivered meals, supports coordination, transportation, adult day care, counseling, medical equipment, and health-related services.

Commissioners said MI Choice capitation rates have not kept up with inflation, and recent increases in minimum wage and earned sick time have not been funded resulting in financial stress for MI Choice managers and participants. Without full funding of the MI Choice program, the number of providers will decrease, leading to care rationing, service delays, staff turnover, longer waitlists, compliance challenges, and increased hospital and nursing home admissions - at more than double the cost of MI Choice's average per diem.

Commissioners approved the disposal of a 2009 Ford Fusion, originally assigned to the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and later transferred to the Specialty Courts for their operational use. The vehicle has reached a condition where it is no longer cost-effective to maintain and operate due to age and wear. Specialty Courts now have access to a shared court vehicle and have no current plans to replace the 2009 Ford Fusion.

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VIEWPOINT

A Father's Painful Choice Shows True Honor

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Many of us are grieving the assassination of TPUSA founder, 31-year-old Charlie Kirk. Its unimaginable to me that in this day and age, a person debating students at an outdoor rally in Utah would be murdered.

The assassin has been named as 22-year-old Tyler. He drove 300 miles to climb a building rooftop, prepare his 30-6 rifle and scope, and fired a single bullet from 150 yards away that killed Kirk instantly.

I'm not here to debate whether Kirk was an American hero or not, however through this tragedy I couldn't help think of the courageous deed the assassin's father committed by during his own son into the police.

On the surface, it seems unimaginable. Parents are wired to protect. From the time our children are born, we do everything in our power to keep them safe. But there comes a time, in rare and tragic situations, when love takes a different shape. This father faced one of those moments. Faced with the knowledge that his son had committed a grave crime; he made the most painful decision a parent can make: he turned him over to the authorities.

Some will say this was betrayal. Others will say it's proof that today's world has gone cold. But here in our community, we ought to see it for what it truly is: an act of honor, integrity, and faith in something bigger than ourselves.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs that "the Lord delights in those who are truthful." Truth, even when it cuts to the bone, is the foundation of justice. By refusing to cover for his son, this father placed truth and justice above personal comfort. He showed that blind loyalty is not the same as love. Real love means guiding someone—even your own child—back toward accountability and, hopefully, redemption.

We should also remember what this means for the community. Too often, crimes are hidden because family or friends stay silent. "It's not my place," they say, or, "blood is thicker than water." But silence in the face of wrongdoing doesn't protect anyone, it allows hurt to spread, and it denies victims and their families the justice they deserve. This father's courage shows us another way. He set an example not only for his family, but for all of us.

And perhaps most importantly, he set an example for our young people. In an age where shortcuts and excuses are easy to find, this choice reminds us all that doing the right thing often comes at a cost. Honor isn't about comfort. Integrity isn't about convenience. These values are about standing firm in the truth, even when your heart is breaking. Our kids need to hear that message, and they need to see adults living it out.

Here in our community, we know the importance of accountability. We teach it in our churches, in our schools, and in our homes. And while none of us prays to face the choice this father did, his example calls us higher. It reminds us that justice is not just the job of courts and police officers—it starts with ordinary people making hard, honest choices.

This father did not betray his son. He gave him the only chance left—to face what he had done, to accept the consequences, and perhaps to find forgiveness. In doing so, he also gave his community, and the rest of us, a lesson in what true integrity looks like.

May we learn from it. And may we have the same courage, if ever we are called upon to place truth above comfort and justice above silence.

And may we learn from this tragedy, that violence is not the answer for disagreements. Kirk always provided those with opposing views a forum, a debate. That is what are founding fathers wanted when they shaped America, certainly not killing those with opposing views.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Writer suggests those opposed to America's principles move elsewhere

Dear Editor,

As the youngest of three children, by the time I came along the traditions in the Young family had long been established. One of these traditions was the "adult hour". This consisted of nothing more than an opportunity for the adults to have a mature conversation undisturbed by childish interruptions and immature antics. Everyone present knew who was invited and the others spent their time doing whatever children would do so as not to disturb the adults during their limited time together. To find oneself admitted to the adult hour was not a matter of age but of maturity. This maturity consisted of mutual respect and decorum. Immature behavior, disrespect, ignorance of what one speaks, the need to always be right or insisting on having the last word were sure indicators that your participation in these gatherings would not be endured.

Perhaps it would be appropriate for newspapers to have a section titled "The Adult Hour". The current editorial page is essential for the free expression of ideas providing the opportunity to speak one's opinions, feelings or simply to vent. Unfortunately, critical thinking appears to be nonexistent with far too many contributors. Too many liberals submit the same rants week after week ad nauseam claiming falsehoods for truth while erroneously stating that everything they don't like, or can't understand is illegal or unconstitutional when obviously such matters are clearly beyond their grasp.

Current examples of these never-ending tirades include issues pertaining to the 14th amendment to our constitution. The 14th amendment was ratified in 1868 with the express intent of providing American citizenship for freed slaves, nothing more. Attempting to legitimize any obligation for our nation to provide American citizenship to anchor babies is not only constitutionally unjustified but is corrupt.

Then there is the claim of due process not being provided to criminal illegal immigrants, many who were never properly vetted upon entry to the United States. Liberals freely justified intentionally depriving many January 6 defendants of their sixth amendment rights simply as subjective and draconian punishment. Yet once again, liberals believe that noncitizens deserve preferential treatment to American citizens.

To date, the majority of the lower court cases against President Trump have been overruled by higher courts. Yet far too many lower court liberal activist judges continue to defy the U.S. Supreme Court, their oaths of office as well as the rule of law in their opposition to President Trump for no other reason than to obstruct his efforts to serve the majority of American citizens while fulfilling his campaign promises.

Regarding the firing of federal employees, remember that American taxpayers have no constitutional, legal, or ethical obligation to provide anyone employment. In the private sector if one leaks intellectual resources, intentionally harms the company, conspires against the directive of management or mismanages money they are usually fired, and should be. To commit such misconduct as a government employee, that individual should not only be fired but prosecuted. And if convicted be banned from government employment in perpetuity.

After unashamedly berating our nation's founders and principles for some six decades liberals now have the insolence to claim what is and is not legal or constitutional. When not burning our flag, they wrap themselves in it and pretend to have reverence for what it epitomizes. To the left burning the American flag is free speech while burning a pride flag constitutes a hate crime.

After eight years of Obama and four years of the Biden regimes systematically undermining our nation, while rewriting our history, America has never experienced the level of violence against Conservatives that we have witnessed throughout the last decade. Since the children on the left cannot tolerate opposition to their narrative and lack the intellectual capacity to maturely exchange ideas or debate they resort to rants, lies and violence.

On a positive note, Tuesday September 9th, Circuit Court Judge Kristen Simmons dismissed all charges against 15 nominated and unpaid Republican electors falsely accused of trying to certify the 2020 presidential election. Despite Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's efforts to prosecute, denigrate and financially ruin these individuals Judge Simmons, a 2019 Whitmer appointee, determined that Nessel's office failed to provide any evidence to support these claims. Judge Simmons stated: "And I believe that they (the 15 defendants) were exercising their constitutional right to seek redress".

In truth the only act these 15 Republicans committed was to defy Nessel's New Democrat party, and with her overinflated ego she was determined to arbitrarily punish them with prison or at least financial ruin, even though federal prosecutors had previously determined there were no legal grounds to bring charges against any of these innocent Republicans. Our own local resident Rose Rook was one of the 15. A true Christian patriot with a servant's heart who has positively contributed to the Paw Paw community for decades. Rose, along with the 14 other innocent defendants, have spent two years in limbo as the result of the vindictive bullying by Nessel. To make matters worse, the mainstream media vilified these 15 Republicans with whatever false claims they were provided by the New Democrat party. I can only hope that the communities of the other 14 innocent electors treated their residents more graciously than some of our community members treated Rose. Not that we have come to expect anything more from our bigoted and petty local liberals.

It's now the adult hour in America. There are roughly 197 countries in our world and none are remotely similar to America in origin, principles or purpose. If America is so reprehensible to liberals, Communists and others of the left, rather than to destroy the last vestige of liberty in the world, I would suggest that those so repulsed by our Judeo-Christian republic to choose one of the other 197 that better suites their sensibilities and do us all a favor by relocating as soon as possible.

John R. Young

Our march in Ox Roast parade was not angry protesst

To: Editor

I walked with the Van Buren County Democratic Party in the Lawrence Ox Roast Parade on Labor Day and personally prepared many of the signs that my fellow Democrats carried in that event. As anyone that actually attended the parade will tell you, our participation was hardly an "angry protest" as it was described in this newspaper last week. In addition to carrying signs, our marchers distributed American flags and bubbles to children along the parade route and received many expressions of gratitude for being there from adult parade-watchers.

As I have written many times, Democrats are extremely concerned about the authoritarian direction this administration has taken our country. We wanted to share that concern with those attending the parade while avoiding anything that was inappropriate for the occasion. So, we purposely chose signs with two goals in mind:

•To affirm our support for the basic principles on which our nation was founded, and

•To share factual information about the Medicaid program.

The messages on our signs were truthful and should not have been controversial. Frankly, I was shocked that someone, who apparently wasn't even at the parade, would distort our messages in an attempt to score political points. In keeping with MAGA practice, the response contained many unsupported claims and at least a couple of downright falsehoods. Here are the facts behind each sign that was criticized:

•No Kings in America Since 1776 – As everyone knows, the United States of America declared independence from King George III of England in 1776. Our sign reminded people of that fact and affirmed that we are opposed to going back to being ruled by a king. We thought most people would agree.

•Saving Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport – "Constitutional Republic" wouldn't fit on the sign. Democrats don't care what it is called; threats to our form of government arise occasionally – secession by the Confederate States in 1861, domination by the "robber barons" of the Gilded Age, authoritarian take-over by the Project 2025 extremists – and must be defeated by "We The People". Sitting on the sidelines and watching to see who wins is not helpful. It takes all of us to prevent being ruled by a dictator.

•The Rule of Law Protects Us All – This is a logical extension of our opposition to being ruled by the arbitrary whims of a king. Everyone should be treated the same under the law. No special treatment for the rich and powerful.

•Liberty and Justice For All – If you are old, like me, you recited these words every school day in the Pledge of Allegiance. There are no concepts more fundamentally American than these two. The claim that those arrested and imprisoned for their actions on January 6, 2021 were denied "due process" is completely false. The insurrectionists arrested and sent to prison were either convicted at trial or confessed their guilt in court.

•1 in 4 Michiganders Rely on Medicaid – I confess that I was surprised at how many of our neighbors rely on Medicaid benefits. Apparently, MAGAs believe that most of those people are lazy and undeserving of these benefits. However, data from the Congressional Budget Office show that 64% of Medicaid recipients (under age 65) are employed full- or part-time and another 29% are unable to work due to caring for dependents, being disabled or in poor health, or attending school. We should be alarmed that 2.6 million of our fellow Michiganders are in such financial distress that they need these benefits. The solution is not to deny the benefits, but to fix the broken healthcare system that makes these benefits necessary.

•FIght for Veterans! They Fought For Us – This simply reminds us that we have an obligation to care for those that signed up to defend our freedoms. Assertions that the Biden Administration did not care for veterans is belied by the fact that the PACT Act of 2022 significantly expanded healthcare access, disability benefits, and treatment for toxic exposure-related conditions like burn pits and Agent Orange. It is the current administration that has cut over 80,000 staff at the VA, resulting in an Inspector General finding that 94% of VA facilities had shortages in medical officer roles (including doctors) and 79% had shortages in nursing staff. Our veterans deserve better.

Tim Martin – Decatur Township

P.S. The Justice Department and the Republican-controlled Congress, including our own Bill Huizenga, still refuse to release the Epstein files in their continuing effort to hide Trump's connection to the sex-trafficking ring.

Dear Paw Paw Red Wolves Families

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, is Count Day across Michigan schools. While it may feel like just another day of attendance, Count Day is actually one of the most important days of the school year for our district.

The number of students who are present and accounted for on Count Day directly determines the amount of state funding Paw Paw Public Schools will receive for the year. Although the exact per-pupil funding amount has not yet been finalized by the state, our district's ability to provide high-quality educational opportunities depends on each student being counted. Quite simply, every student's presence makes a difference for our schools.

Based on our initial enrollment numbers this year, Paw Paw is definitely attracting new families to our pack. This is encouraging, but we need your help to make sure we capture and count every student on count day.

In addition to attendance, there is another way families can help us secure critical Resources - by completing the Education Benefits Form. This form collects important household information that not only helps determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, should the state's universal free breakfast and lunch program change, but also provides evidence of need that allows our district to qualify for additional state and federal funding. These funds support programs that benefit all students, including classroom resources, academic support services, and enrichment opportunities.

We ask for your support in two important ways:

1. Please make every effort to ensure your child attends school on Count Day. (Oct. 1)

2. If you have not already done so, please complete the Education Benefits Form, which can be found at https://pawpaw.familyportal.cloud//.

Your partnership has a direct impact on the success of Paw Paw Public Schools. Thank you for helping us continue to provide the best possible education and opportunities for every student in our PACK.

With gratitude,

Jeremy Davison, Superintendent

Paw Paw Public Schools

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County Museum to hold community yard sale September 20

HARTFORD - The Van Buren County Museum will hold a Community Yard Sale, Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In case of rain, it will be held Sept. 27

Shoppers, vendors and crafters will enjoy the fall yard sale on the grounds of the museum. There will be a variety of things culled from the museum's storage including antique furniture, dishes, tools, books and general yard sale fare.

For more information or to reserve a 10-by-10 space ($20), call the museum at (269)-500-1450.

The museum's next Paranormal Tour will be held Sept. 27, at 9:30 p.m. The cost is $25. Interested individuals can also spend a night in the museum, weather permitting, for $50. Sign up by calling (269) 500-1450.

A Murder Mystery will be held Sept. 28, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the museum. Members of the Historical Society will be stationed throughout the museum portraying characters from the

Poison Flour Mystery in Keeler. The museum extends an invitation for interested individuals to attend and interview those involved and help solve the mystery.

A soup, salad and dessert meal will be held Friday, Oct. 24, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lawrence Township Hall, 411 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence.

There will be a large selection of soups, salads, and homemade desserts made by museum members and friends.

There is no charge, however, a free will donation to the museum is being asked.

The museum, at 58471 Red Arrow Highway, Hartford Township, is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. until inclement weather. Interested individuals planning a visit, but concerned about the weather, are encouraged to call (269) 500-1450, or visit their Facebook page.

For questions about Van Buren County history, ask a museum greeter in-person or at the museum's official Facebook page.

Become more aware of your risk for Afib

By James Windell

If you are over 45 years of age, there's a one in three chance that you will experience atrial fibrillation in your lifetime.

Atrial fibrillation – or Afib – is the most common type of heart rhythm disorder.

Dr. Thomas Franzon, an Electrophysiologist with Bronson Advanced Cardiac Healthcare, said that's why September's as AFib Awareness Month is such a vital opportunity to educate and empower people to listen to their bodies and get the care they need.

"I treat AFib every day," Franzon said in a recent interview. "I see how easily it can be missed or misunderstood, especially early on."

According to Franzon, Afib is an electrical abnormality in the top chambers of the heart. "Undiagnosed, Afib can be scary because one of the problems of Afib is that you can get a stroke," Franzon said. "When the blood is not pumping in the top chamber and the blood is stagnating, it can form a blood clot. If that blood clot goes to the brain, then you can have a stroke – and strokes from Afib can be massive strokes." Even if Afib does not result in a stroke, it can lead to heart failure because the heart is not able to withstand a rapid heartbeat for prolonged periods of time.

What causes Afib?

Dr. Franzon explains that there is a wide range of risk factors for atrial fibrillation. "There is always some degree of genetic predisposition," he said, "but there are also several lifestyle behaviors that can be dangerous." The most common risk factors include being overweight, drinking alcohol, having sleep apnea, suffering from diabetes, and having experienced a prior heart attack.

"All of these things come together and place stress on the top chamber of the heart," he said. "When the heart is stressed, the top chambers stretch out causing scar tissue in the walls of the heart. Electricity doesn't flow as readily and that can be a set up for Afib."

Although Franzon notes that being overweight is a critical factor in developing Afib, a person who has put on extra pounds isn't a lost cause. "If you are in the early stages of Afib and you are overweight but you are motivated about it, you can actually reverse the progression of the disorder by shedding pounds," he said.

One of the reasons that Afib is undiagnosed or ignored is that symptoms can resemble many other kinds of disorders. Afib's usual symptoms include fatigue or low energy, shortness of breath, heart palpitations or fluttering, chest discomfort or pressure, and dizziness or lightheadedness.

In discussing treatments for Afib, Dr. Franzon said the options boil down to two. "There is medication and there is a minimally invasive procedure called an ablation procedure," he said. "We try to get the heart back in a normal rhythm with one of four or five possible medications or with an ablation procedure."

He said that in performing an ablation they insert a catheter into the upper chamber of the heart to correct the electrical disturbance.

However, he emphasized that both prevention and treatment come back to lifestyle. "Lifestyle is always one of the most important things," he said. "Even after we do ablation, we don't want the Afib to come back, so we need to try to fix the things that are causing Afib in the first place."

Dr. Franzon said that if you are experiencing any of the symptoms listed in this article, you should not wait because early diagnosis and treatment can significantly reduce your risk of stroke and improve your quality of life. While he said that a doctor may diagnose Afib during a routine examination, if you are concerned that you may have this disorder you should bring it to the attention of your doctor or talk with a cardiologist.

Dr. Franzon pointed out that Bronson Advanced Cardiac Healthcare offers comprehensive care for AFib, from diagnosis to long-term management, with the latest tools and personalized treatment plans. To learn more about AFib and Bronson's heart and vascular services, visit bronsonhealth.com/heart.

OBITUARIES

Thomas Joseph Smitko

Thomas Joseph Smitko, 86, of North Kansas City, Missouri, passed away peacefully, September 3, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He battled Rheumatoid Arthritis for over 40 years and finally succumbed to complications from the disease. Born in Chicago, December 6, 1939, Tom spent his childhood developing his love for the water at Maple Lake in Paw Paw, Michigan.

By trade, Tom worked as a trainer for Santa Fe Railroad. Additionally, he worked as a translator for Christian Foundations for Children and Aging. In their later years, Tom and his wife Diane became house parents at the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch. For their retirement, they enjoyed 11 wonderful years at their lake home in Sunrise Beach, Missouri.

Tom's true passion was actively doing our Lord's work on earth. He volunteered with Catholic Charities, Camdenton County Jail Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Saint Luke's Hospice and numerous others. He had a special way of comforting others in their time of need. Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Isabel Smitko, his wife Diane and his sister Cynthia. Tom is survived by his three children, Rebecca (Roland) Stone, Brian (Christine Rogan) Smitko, and Brent (Sara) Smitko. His nine precious grandchildren, Aidan, Ethan, Erian, Alyson, Brianna, Nicholas, Parker, Riley and Dawson.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00am on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at Twelve Apostles Catholic Church in Platte City, Missouri.

Art Randall

Art Randall, age 82, of Lawton and formerly of Lawrence and Gobles died on Friday, September 12, 2025, at Pipp Hospital in Plainwell. Members of his family include his wife Ruth: 4 children: Keith, Kimberly (Clair) Carr, Eric Vito, Sheila (Chuck) Iversen; Grandchildren: Eric II Vito, Tyler (Hailey) Pullano, Tabatha (Curtis) Murray, Justin Randall, Clarissa (William) Phillips, Tatum Louis, Kaleb (Nevada) Randall; Great-grandchildren: Eric Vito III, Lyndsey, Javan Jr., Carl and Robert Louis, Mason and Autumn Pullano, Brielle and Jaxon Murray, Aristotle Richardson, Zharius Randall; sisters: Marilyn (Paul) Genereux, Barbara (Don) Jacobs. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Bradley Midget, and his sister, Susan (Nick) Klumb. Cremation has taken place. Life Story Services will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, September 21, at Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes, 6080 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo (269) 375-2900. A reception will follow in the Life Story Center. Donations may be made to New Hope Community Church. Celebrate Art's life online by sharing your favorite stories and photos on his dedicated webpage at BetzlerLifeStory.com.

Albert "Al" Anthony

Albert "Al" Anthony joined his late wife Nancy Anthony in heaven on September 14, 2025 at the age of 87 years old. We are certain he was welcomed with a cup of coffee – and one heck of a welcome celebration. Albert was born on April 5, 1938 to his parents Albert and Rosella (Copple) Anthony in Conneaut, Ohio. On January 31, 1959 he was united in marriage to his great love, Nancy (Baird) Anthony. Together, they lived a wonderful life full of joy and happiness. He was preceded in death by Nancy in 2023, and he has missed her dearly ever since. We are joyful to know they are now back together, resuming their daily banter and laughter, as they continue to watch their family and his favorite sports teams from the best seat in the house. Albert was also preceded in death by his parents and an infant son; sisters-in-law Judith Anthony, Norma Miller, Patricia Sobecki; brothers-in-law Donald Miller, Charles, Jack, and David Baird. Albert is survived by his 3 children: Dianna (Douglas) Landers, Albert Anthony, and Laura (Brand) Barden; 4 grandchildren: Katy (Mark) Hills, Becky (Derek) Deschaine, Brand (Danielle Baker) Barden Jr., and Tyler (Alana) Barden; several adoring great grandchildren; his sister Mary (Richard) Reo; brother Richard Anthony; sister-in-law Mary (Robert) Harvanec; and many nieces and nephews. The oldest of 3 children, Albert grew up in Conneaut, Ohio, spending his time helping his mother and father run their family business, playing sports, and most certainly getting into trouble with his close friends and other children in the neighborhood. Many timeless stories have been told about his memories growing up with good friends "Bugsy" Julio and Mike Zappitello. After marrying, Al and Nancy grew their family and eventually moved to Bangor, Michigan in 1971 as an employee of Adams Electronics. While he has lived in Michigan ever since, he has remained an avid Cleveland sports fan, rarely missing a Guardians or Browns game- even though they could never quite bring home the big win for him, the bums! Albert was a lifelong entrepreneur and had an innovative business mind, always looking for the next successful move. After working at Adams Electronics, his family opened Bangor Electronics, which was a thriving manufacturing business in Bangor for many decades. Thanks to Albert's shrewd business sense, many local families were able to earn a respectable living for many, many years. He also readily supported the pursuits of his family members throughout his life, which resulted in the further growth and success of many, many people and businesses that still thrive today In one such business move, Albert became co-owner of Lariat Lanes in Bangor along with his friend Richard Hensley, until its closure in 2014. While this may not have been his most fruitful venture, it certainly brought him and his family, as well as the local community, many years of entertainment. His grandchildren have many great memories of special Saturday mornings of bowling (and "stealing" candy) with grandpa. Other special memories include puzzles completed on coffee tables while "the girls" were bowling on Tuesday nights, endless re-runs of Bonanza and Daniel Boone, pinball and pool games in the basement, golfing with many friends and family members, and that one fateful purchase of "pretend" blue make-up at Walmart. Albert enjoyed many things in his later life, most notably including watching his favorite sports teams play and playing or listening to music. He owned countless instruments, including banjos, guitars, keyboards, and harmonicas. He was a respectable singer in his own right as well, and his great-grandchildren loved to sing and dance along with him in his living room. Al also enjoyed his classic cars, and drove them around proudly as often as he could. Al found great joy in the success of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. From academic and career successes to sports and military successes, he loved seeing photos and videos of them doing what they loved. Many of them went to him when they needed any kind of advice, as he usually gave the best (even when they didn't agree). Bonus: he also gave the best hugs and whiskery kisses. We will forever miss Albert, but his life and love will forever be remembered by those of us who were beyond blessed to know him. Services will be held at D.L. Miller Funeral Home, Bangor Chapel, on Friday, September 19th, 2025. Visitation is to be held at 10:00am and funeral at 11:00am, with interment and luncheon to follow.

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Gobles girls are third

Libby Smith was first in the SAC jamboree.

Ava DeYoung was 16th in the SAC jamboree

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles varsity cross country teams competed in their first SAC Jamboree Wednesday, Sept. 10 and Mendon Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 13.

SAC Jamboree 1:

At Warner Camp in Grand Junction the teams of the SAC met to compete in the first league jamboree. The girls placed 3rd and the boys placed 7th among the 18 schools competing.

Libby Smith wont meet in 18:27.25. Lauren Shaffer was seventh for the girls in 20;14.80, Ava DeYoung was 16th (22:00.54) and Madison Cooley was 18th (22:08.02).

They will all meet at Parchment on Sept. 24th and then at Delton-Kellogg's course at the Gilmore Car museum on October 9 to finalize the league standings.

Fletcher Amos led the boys in 24th at 18:45.99.

At Mendon, the girls were meet champions while the boys placed 2nd only 3 points behind the champion, Centreville.

Libby Smith, Lauren Shaffer, Ava DeYoung, Madison Cooley, Addison Tomsic, and Alyssa Sparks all earned medals and Taylor Cooley set a PR in her 5k.

Cole Ringel, Fletcher Amos, Jaxon Bunce, David Sager, Cole Cannon also earned medals on the boys side and Titus Sager, Easton Piper, and Jose Boger competed with grit on Saturday.

Captions— photos byKathie J. Brown
Creative Photography

South Haven runners shine at Michigan State

The South Haven cross country teams: Front Row (left to right): Erin Gordon, Elke Peterson, Miya Cargill, Evynn VanBryssel, Gianna Fazio, Kaelyn, Adamson, Erin Bos; Back Row (left to right): Christian Prong, Jakin Prong, JJ Garcia, Zander Duncan, Nolan Weins, Ruby Peterson, Katherin Barajas, Madisyn Lapinski.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — The South Haven cross country team competed at the MSU Invitational on Friday, Sept. 12.

The boys were 27th and the girls were 24th in the Division 2 race.

For the South Haven boys, Noah Foley was 119th (19:27.9), Nolan Weins was 120th (19:29.0), Christian Prong was 157th (20:22.2), Jakin Prong 180th (20:57.9), Javier Garcia 188th (21:06.3), and Zander Duncan 219th (22:13.5)

For the girls, Katherine Barajas was 84th (23:35.9), Erin Gordon 88th (23:43.1), Even VanBrussel 156th (25:30.1), Elke Peterson 231st (29:19.2), Miya Cargill 242nd (30:47.5) and Gianna Fazio 257th (33:59.6)

"The team competed very well, is putting in the hard work on training days, and it is showing," coach Lindsay Haqq said. "We are very excited for end of the season races as we continue each day to train our best."

In the SAC jamboree on Sept. 10 at Warner Camp, South Haven boys were ninth among 16 teams and the girls were 10th among 15 teams.

Nolan Wiens was 25th for the boys (18:47.46), while Christian Prong was 32nd (19:12.46). For the girls, Madisyn Lapinski was 17th (22:04.93) and Erin Gordon was 48th (24:57.47).

South Haven is set for the SAC No. 2 conference jamboree on Sept. 24 and the Portage Invitational on Oct. 4.

Paw Paw volleyball falls at Niles

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Last week, coach Haley Rock's Paw Wolves volleyball squad hosted its first conference game against Niles, where they battled to five sets but came up short 32.

"Our defense was scrappy and our serve receive was the key to starting our offense," Rock said. "Seniors Kailey Nichols, Mykayla Hough and sophomore Charlotte Harling executed through a tough offense from Niles, keeping rallies alive and energy up.

"Seniors Breslyn Zache and Chloe Shannon along with junior, Bella Clemons led the team offensively with aggressive attacks and blocks. It's still early in the season and we are starting to build the energy and connect as a team- we have a lot of potential and I am exited to see the progression throughout the season."

This week Tuesday Paw Paw will host Dowagiac and Thursday will travel to Edwardsburg.

Lawton cross country teams shines

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Saturday's rain at the Mendon Invitational didn't dampen the efforts of

Lawton's middle school cross country team as the girls and boys both finished first.

Eighth-grader Hannah McCorry won the girl's race on the wet 1.75 mile course with a

time of 11:21, while seventh-grader Noah Williams paced the boys with a third place

finish in 10:44. Also medaling in the top-20 for Lawton were Olivia Williams, 4th,

Preston Cornish, 4th, Kenzie Winkle, 7th, Quincy Bandfield, 7th, Jonah Woodward, 8th,

Andrew Williams, 11th, Jade McFarland, 13th, and Ava Boven, 16th.

Lawton's varsity competed at Mendon but not enough runners were there for a team score.

Noah Withers was 24th for the boys in 20:48.9. For the girls, Anika Weurding was 19th (24:32.8). Gabby Hayes was 34th (28:26.1)

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Gobles improves to 3-0

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers put together a complete performance on both sides of the ball Friday night, rolling to a 44-0 victory over Marcellus, coach Greg Eichler said.

The Tigers racked up 396 total yards of offense while holding Marcellus to just 157. The ground game led the charge with 268 rushing yards and four touchdowns, highlighted by Nathan Ray's 85 yards and two scores. Devin Doorlag added 67 yards and a touchdown on just six carries, while Aiden Beam broke free for a 53-yard score.

Through the air, quarterback Steven Juarez was sharp, completing 5 of 6 passes for 112 yards and two touchdowns. Ray was a big target, hauling in a 73-yard touchdown reception, and Beam added a 34-yard TD catch.

Defensively, Gobles swarmed Marcellus all night, finishing with 10 tackles for loss and 2 sacks. Ray anchored the defense with 13 total tackles, including 6 TFLs, while Hunter Piper contributed 10 tackles and an interception. The Tigers also shut down Marcellus on key downs, allowing just 2 of 10 conversions on third down and stopping all six fourth-down attempts.

Special teams chipped in as well, with Beam breaking tackles on punt returns and Vinnie Romano recovering an onside kick to keep momentum firmly on Gobles' side.

"Overall, it was a complete team effort," Eichler said. "Many players contributed to the victory and it was a great display of teamwork. With the victory, Gobles improves their record to 3-0 and shows they can play with both physical defense and explosive plays on offense."

Paw Paw football team falls

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Niles defeated Paw Paw 30-14 on Friday. With both teams primarily running the ball, the contest was a quick one which included multiple turnovers by both teams.

Highlights for Mattawan include:

Ben Miller with 132 yards on 24 carries for two touchdowns, three receptions for seven yards - six solo tackles and four assisted tackles.

Elias Sonneberg had six carries for 92 yards, two catche for 11 yards - four solo tackles, five assisted tackles and one sack.

Carter Buhl five solo tackles, two assisted tackles, one sack, and two tackles for losses.

Austin Ackerman had four solo tackles, three assisted tackles, one sack, and one tackle for a loss.

Niles is 3-0 wile Paw Paw is 0-3.

Paw Paw plays at Edwardsburg on Sept. 19 and at Plainwell on Sept. 26.

Portage Northern 49, Mattawan 21

Mattawan fell to 0-3 with this Friday loss at Portage Northern.

Northern improved to 2-1.

It was the Southwestern Conference opener for both teams.

Mattawan is home on Sept. 19 against Kalamazoo Loy Norrix.

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Emergency Room For serious emergencies like chest pain go to the nearest emergency room.
bronsonhealth.com/qc
BRONSON

Paw Paw tennis team beats Kalamazoo Hackett

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW AW — The Paw Paw Tennis Rally Against Cancer had to be canceled Saturday as the morning rain lasted to long for the tournament to be completed.

Paw Paw was still able to get an afternoon dual in against local rivals Hackett Catholic Prep. The Red Wolves started out strong with 6-0, 6-0 victories by 1st Doubles Anderson Farnquist/Isaac Geffre and 2nd Doubles Simon Geffre/Ethan Groner. The Fighting Irish fouth back and picked up two wins to set the match at 4-2 with two matches left on court. 1st Singles Terrance Fisher secured the victory with a straight sets victory and 2nd Singles Eric Fitchpatrick topped of the night with another victory for a team score of 6-2.

The Red Wolves are now 3-0 in the Wolverine Conference and 7-1-1 overall.

Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep - 2, Paw Paw - 6,

Singles: No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. Jimmy Kennedy, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep, 6-4 , 7-6 (3). No. 2 - Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw def. Noah Ray, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep, 0-6 , 6-3 , 6-2. No. 3 - Joel Sebastian, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep def. Zach Mahan, Paw Paw, 7-5 , 6-2, No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Robbie Majoras, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep, 6-3 , 6-3, Doubles: No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. David Darner, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep - Parker Hosner, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep, 6-0 , 6-0. No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Colin Gallagher, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep - Carmine Saracina, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep, 6-0 , 6-0. No. 3 - Tyler Beach, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep - Max Gerl, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep def. Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw, 6-4 , 7-5. No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Owen Czuk, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep - Christopher Sappanos, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep, 6-3 , 6-2.

Paw Paw soccer teams win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw Red Wolves boys soccer team traveled to Allegan over the weekend for a non conference matchup. Jv got things rolling with a 4-2 win. Goals by Ricardo Nava Cruz, Heath Johnson, Brock Stamp and Nathan Klein. Assists by Pablo Soro and Obie Garcia (3).

Varsity won 6-1 and started out strong scoring off of a corner kick as Lex Lounsbury curved the ball in past the keeper, coach Mike Lounsbury said. "The attack continued as Lounsbury and Daniel Diaz combined back and forth through the defense with the final layoff coming from Lounsbury to Diaz who buried the shot for a 2-0 lead."

Diaz then carried the ball up and played a cross into Grant Sholander who buried the shot past the keeper. The fourth goal of the first half came as Caleb Kenyon drew a foul inside the box for a pk. Caleb stepped up a buried the pk in the lower left corner. Allegan got a late goal to go into half 4-1.

"Scoring in the second half started as the ball cycled back to the defense before playing up to Santiago Nava Aviles, Santiago played the ball through to Diaz who dribbled through 5 or 6 defenders before beating the goalie back post. The last goal of the game came as Diaz played the ball through to Enzo Tavela who finished an easy tap in goal."

Wednesday, Sept. 10

The boys soccer team hosted Edwardsburg in a tough conference matchup and lost 3-0. Edwardsburg came out on the attack but the defense battled and held strong for most of the first half. Edwardsburg scored two goals in the first half off of set pieces. The boys reset at half time and came out on the attack. The midfield and attackers started to take over creating chance after chance.

The Edwardsburg defense held strong and kept the Red Wolves off the board. A late pk awarded to Edwardsburg gave them the final goal and a 3-0 win. "The defensive line of Connor Graves, Alex Groner, Isaac Heffner and Avery Williford battled all night to keep the game close and to give us the opportunity to bounce back in the second half," coach Lounsbury said.

South Haven offense explodes, down Coloma 44-34

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven defeated Coloma 44-34 in football action on Friday.

Jacob Bosman had 200 yards rushing while Quin Hayes had 119.

Dominic Guzam had 16 tackles and Rowan Fonseca 11. Grayson Knox had one interception.

"Offensively, we were sparked by Quin Hayes with a big run in the third and a two-point conversion that gave us the lead," South Haven coach Mark Eddy said. "The combo of Hayes and Bosma, who racked up a physical 200 yards on the ground, tipped scales in our favor. Big thanks to the offensive line for 339 rushing yards.

"Defensively, Dominic Guzman led with 16 tackles, followed by Rowan Fonseca with 11. Grayson Knox got a diving interception.The defensive line kept amping up the pressure throughout the night," Eddy said. "Special teams were solid with August Zoet making all his extra points and a TD-saving tackle."

It was South Haven's first win of the season after an 0-2 start. The Rams will be home the next two games: Sept. 19 with Constantine and Sept. 26 with Parchment.

Mattawan volleyball team has exciting matches

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Megan Jessee is varsity volleyball coach at Mattawan and her teams has had some exciting matches this month.

On Sept. 3 vs No. 7-ranked Jenison, Mattawan lost 3-2 by scores of 20-25, 25-17, 25-23, 24-26, 14-16.

That same day, vs. Harper Creek, Mattawan won 3-2 by scores of 8-25, 21-25, 25-19, 25-15, 15-12.

In tournament action on Sept. 8 vs. No. 2 Forest Hills Northern, it was a loss 2-1 to No. 2 Forest Hills Northern 25-22, 19-25, 5-15; a win 2-0 over honorable mention-ranked Caledonia 25-17, 25-21; a loss 2-0 to No. 2 ranked Grand Rapids Central and a 2-0 loss to No, 1-ranked Rockford 25-16,, 25-11.

Brooklyn Brassard continues to lead the team with Kills, Macey Brown with digs and Brooke Steeves with assists.

South Haven golfers take ninth place

By John Raffel

On Friday, South Haven finished ninth out of 21 teams at the Marshall Invitational.

"Virtually every team was from a huge high school," South Haven coach Barry Shanley said. "The host coach congratulated us on our finish."

South Havens scorers were Gwen Meyer 100; Lyne Badenhorst (sophomore) 101;

Faith Spies 106 and Aubrey Hodgman 128.

"We were playing without our normal No. 4," Shanley said.

On Monday, South Haven played in the conference Jamboree at Indian Lake Hills hosted by Dowagiac.

South Haven finished first and now has sole possession of first place in the conference. South Have shot a 206, Cassopolis shot 211. Dowagiac a 220. Berrien Springs 251. Michigan Lutheran 255. Comstock 258. Niles Brandywine 280.

Allegan had only three players and did not score.

South Haven scorers:

Lyne Badenhorst 49 for 3rd place overall; Faith Spies 51 Top Ten; Chloe Vanlandingham 52 Top Ten and Gwen Meyer 54 10th.

Paw Paw golfers

Paw Paws golf team was seventh out of eight teams on Monday in the Wolverine meet at Four Lakes Country Club, Edwardsburg.

Paw Paw shot a 214. Otsego and Plainwell had 179s. Lily Brausch had a 46, followed by Maci Vandermeeden with 49, Sydney McNitt 56, Mayelli Paredes Zavala 63 and Addison McLeese 65.

Matttawan runners take third place

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's boys cross country was third out of 12 schools at the Ottawa Hills Invitational Friday.

Marcel Stork was first place overall (15:52) and Owen Fisher was third (16:09) for Mattawan.

In the boys JV race Mattawan had fourth place.

Lincoln Davis (14th) and Ben Ambs (21st)

The girls team a lot of personal records, led by Claire Yakiwchuk (22:47), Tana Drobek (23:27) and Adel Sebestova (24:05) in the varsity race," coach John Alblao said.

In the girls JV race, Ava Garcia, Brianna Bauler, and Braelynn Mattson were the top Wildcat finishers.

The teams will run the SMAC Jamboree race on Wednesday Sept. 17.

Mattawan was at the Lakeview Invitational on Sept. 6 at Riverside Elementary School in Battle Creek. The boys were fifth out of nine schools. Marcel Stork was third (16:06.45), Owen Fisher was fifth (16:10.43), Braeden Gildea 26th (17:25.70), Tanner Christensen 33rd (17:44.66), Trevor Nagra 35th (17:58.27) and Caleb Elwell 37th (18:11.77).

For the girls, Kate Barron was 19th (21:03.61), Natalie Barron 32nd (22:02.30), Claire Yakiwchuk 43rd (22:51.46) and Tana Drobeck 45th (23:03.27).

Area Church Services

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Len Schoenherr
668-2811 • www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

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COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

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FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search:
"Buddy Turner"

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays
in person or online at -
www.pawpawpres.com or
www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook &
YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-7727
Pastor Dan Phillips
Sunday Service at 9:30 am

••••

RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream
worship

••••

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

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ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday:
Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico |
Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514/ (269) 993-6727

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
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Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
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Rev. John Tran.
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

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Wednesday Bible Study &
Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://
www.decaturbible.org

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Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

MATTAWAN

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56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

••••

ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. John Tran
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
Sunday Mass times to 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM
(Saturday Mass time remains at 4:00 PM)

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Porter Township
Van Buren County
Regular Meeting
August 13, 2025

Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and twelve guests.

- Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 9, 2025. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Smith to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to approve Supervisor Oxley's recommendation to partner with Antwerp Township in their Recycling Program, with the Township paying for ½ ($100) of Porter Township resident's $200 annual fee. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Packer with support by Bitely to approve Supervisor Oxley's recommendation to hire JC & Sons for tree removal, in an amount not to exceed $183,200. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Election Commission meeting will be held September 10, 2025 at 6:45 pm.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

State of Michigan
36th Judicial Circuit - Family Division
Van Buren County
Publication of Hearing
Case No. 25020178 NA

To: MARCOS DE LA CERDA
IN THE MATTER OF: Ethan Gonzalez

A hearing regarding Family Court Bench Trial will be conducted by the court on October 7th, 2025 at 3:00pm in Courtroom 2, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079 before Honorable Judge Jeffrey Dufon.

You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by judge or jury.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Marcos De La Cerda personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above.

This hearing may result in court jurisdiction over your minor child.

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County

Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1137-DE
Judge Metzger

Estate of **BRUCE M. MCDONALD**
Date of Birth October 18,2025

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Bruce M. NcDonald.** Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Timothy McDonald**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

9/4/2025

Attorney:
Albert W. Laaksonen II P43980
226 1/2 East Michigan Ave
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-1035
Personal Representative:
Timothy McDonald
92312 Gravel Lake Drive
Lawton MI 49065
269-366-8854

State of Michigan
Probate Court
Van Buren County

Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1117-DE

Estate of **GLENDA FAYE CYPERT**
Date of Birth March 3,1963

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Glenda Faye Cypert, died June 5,2025.** Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Brett Cochran**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

9/10/2025

Attorney:
Andrew W. Barnes P70571
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-287-2010
Personal Representative:
Brett Cochran
849 Green Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-214-8039

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County

Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1118-DE

Estate of **BEULAH FAYE CYPERT**
Date of Birth May 24 1942

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Beulah Faye Cypert, died March 20, 2025.** Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Brett Cochran**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

9/10/2025

Attorney:
Andrew W. Barnes P70571
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-287-2010
Personal Representative:
Brett Cochran
849 Green Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-214-8039

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County

Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1134-DE

Estate of **RUTH IRENE BLOINK**
Date of Birth February 22,1951

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Ruth Irene Bloink, died June 29,2025.** Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Lorraine E. Kirby**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

9/10/2025

Attorney:
William K. Kriekard P39475
8051 Moorsbridge Road
Portage, MI 49024
269-323-3400
Personal Representative:
Lorraine E. Kirby
44683 56th Avenue
Paw paw, MI 49079
269-364-8505

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: ISRAEL OVIEDO; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 9/18/2025; ATTY FILE #: 519955F02; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Israel Oviedo and Juanita Oviedo, his wife Original Mortgagee: Cendant Mortgage Corporation dba PHH Mortgage Services, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citibank, N.A. as Trustee for Cendant Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2002-B
Date of Mortgage: August 15, 2001
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 10, 2001
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $50,910.29
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Bangor, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 144 of A.H. Morrisons Map of the City of Bangor.
Common street address (if any): 602 Joy St, Bangor, MI 49013-1126
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: September 18, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1571972

(09-18)(10-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Brittany Grzybowski; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 24-002140-7; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 09, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Brittany Grzybowski and Zack Grzybowski and Melissa Middleton Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 16, 2021 Recorded on November 30, 2021, Liber 1729, on Page 795, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two and 29/100 Dollars ($232,232.29) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lots 7 and 8, Block 7, VILLAGE OF GRAND JUNCTION, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 31 of Plats, Page 287, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 03761 Columbia St, Grand Junction, MI 49056 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1571724

(09-11)(10-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James A. Brown; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 25-011389; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 9, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by James A. Brown, a married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated October 15, 2020 and recorded November 2, 2020 in Liber 1708, Page 567 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Eight and 66/100 Dollars ($121,008.66). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 9, 2025. Said premises are located in the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as: Lot 6, Block 6, Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records. 206 Clark St, Decatur, Michigan 49045 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. Dated: September 11, 2025 File No. 25-011389 Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(09-11)(10-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Macario Martinez Jr.; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 9/4/2025; Atty File #: 25-010366; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Macario Martinez, Jr., a single man and Selenia Romero, a single woman, as joint tenants with right of survivorship, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Van Dyk Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated September 21, 2020 and recorded October 5, 2020 in Liber 1707, Page 222 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Eight and 8/100 Dollars ($129,528.08). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 2, 2025. Said premises are located in the Township of Hartford, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as: LOT 7, SPRINGDALE MANOR, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 5 OF PLATS, PAGE 27, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS. 57880 Springdale Dr, Hartford, Michigan 49057 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. Dated: September 4, 2025 File No. 25-010366 Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(09-04)(09-25)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Elisa Solis; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/4/2025; Atty File #: 25-002484-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 02, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Elisa Solis and Horton Allen Stanfill, joint tenants Original Mortgagee: Union Home Mortgage Corp.
Date of mortgage: June 17, 2019
Recorded on June 27, 2019, Liber 1685, on Page 936, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-One and 69/100 Dollars ($106,551.69) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3 and 4 in Block F in Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 115 E Bronson St, Decatur, MI 49045 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1570986

(09-04)(09-25)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Roger Miller; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 525440F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Roger Miller, Married Man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 2, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 16, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $225,620.82
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Waverly, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the East 1/4 post of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 14 West, and running thence with bearings referenced to a survey recorded in Liber 1 of Surveys on Page 50, South 89 degrees 58 minutes 56 seconds West along the East and West 1/4 line of the East 1/2 of said Section 963.33 feet; thence South 00 degrees 19 minutes 43 seconds West 328.90 feet; thence South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 130.09 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds West 149.97 feet; thcncc South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 580.40 feet to the Westerly right of way of M-40 Highway; thence around a curve to the left with a radius of 2241.83 feet, along said Westerly right of way to the far end of a chord which bears North 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds East 149.97 feet; thence North 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds West 580.40 feet to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 46644 M 40, Paw Paw, MI 49079-8505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Continues on page 11

NOTICE OF PAW PAW TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The Paw Paw Township Board of Trustees approved amendments to the Zoning Ordinance related to indoor recreation facilities and mini/self-storage facilities:

- Amends Section 42-2.02 to include the definitions of indoor recreational facilities and mini/self-storage facilities.
- Amends Section 42-5.10.C to revise a related term used in the section to indoor recreational facilities and to pull out the theatre separately in the GC zoning district.
- Amends Section 42-5.12.B to include mini/self-storage facilities as a permitted use in the HCI zoning district.
- Amends Section 42-5.12.C to include indoor recreational facilities as a special land use in the HCI zoning district.
- Amends Section 42-8.16 Mini/self-storage facilities to strike the two-acre minimum lot size and allow individual suites for personal and business use.
- Amends Section 42-9.12 to include parking requirements for indoor recreational facilities.

Copies of related materials and the full Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map are available for review at the Paw Paw Township Hall during regular business hours (114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079). Relevant information is available by request- call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org.

Planning Commission Public Hearing: August 19, 2025
Township Board Adoption: September 8, 2025
Publication Date: September 18, 2025
Effective Date: September 25, 2025

NOTICE TO WAVERLY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Waverly Township will sponsor a Two Day Clean-up for the residents of Waverly Township.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

October 3 & 4

FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. BOTH DAYS

WAVERLY TOWNSHIP HALL 42114 M-43

Attendants will be on duty to check ID'S

You must have identification to prove you are a Waverly Township Resident

THERE WILL BE A TIRE TRAILER AVAILABLE

Will be accepting small and medium size Tractor Tires

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:

Cement, Chemicals or Hazardous Materials, no dead animals, loose trash, shingles, medical waste, insulation or paint (unless the paint is completely dry and the lid off)

Waverly Township
Tony Millek, Supervisor
269-657-1776

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

AVB Construction, LLC is preparing for improvements to the cooling in the High School Gymnasium through a renovation of their existing HVAC system Mattawan Consolidated Schools. Commencement of work will begin ASAP Fall 2025. AVB is performing multiple projects at Mattawan Consolidated Schools over the next 2 years. Bid Information

Bid Information is available now:

Contact Amanda Peters for access to bidders' instructions, plans and specifications: **apeters@avbinc.com** 269-816-4418

All bidders must supply a bid bond, a notarized statement of familiar relationship & other required affidavits found on the district website

Bids are due:

at the Mattawan Consolidated Schools Central Office - 56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071 (ATTN Pam Stermer, CFO)

There will be a sealed public bid opening immediately following. Late bids will not be considered. Project Location, Schedule

Mattawan Consolidated Schools
MCS High School Gym Cooling starts ASAP Fall 2025 – Substantial Completion Fall 2025
Scopes of Work Bidding
23.100 Mechanical; 26.100 Electrical

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 10

the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 28, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1570126
(08-28)(09-18)

BCNS # 259584/Reference # Cascade / Irwin_13422.0074
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name(s) of the Mortgagor(s): Christine Irwin and Paul Irwin, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Southwest Stage Funding, LLC dba Cascade Financial Services Date of Mortgage: July 18, 2019 Date of Mortgage Recording: July 29, 2019 in Liber 1687, Page(s) 232, et. seq., with a Construction Conversion Agreement, dated November 1, 2019 and recorded on November 13, 2019 in Liber 1692, Page 32, et. seq. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Southwest Stage Funding, LLC (d/b/a Cascade Financial Services) Date of Assignment: August 6, 2025 Date of Assignment Recording: August 7, 2025 Amount claimed due on date of Notice: $140,769.27, which amount may or may not be the entire indebtedness owed by Debtors to Mortgagee together with interest at 9.84 percent per annum. Description of Mortgaged Premises: LAND SITUATED IN CITY OF HARTFORD, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT FOUND BY COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH QUARTER POST OF SECTION 16, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, AND RUNNING THENCE WITH BEARINGS REFERENCED TO THE WEST LINE OF ALLEN HUNTLEY AND STICKNEY'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF HARTFORD, AS A MERIDIAN, EAST 599.32 FEET, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE SOUTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID SUBDIVISION 757.62 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 390.93 FEET, THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST 143.77 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF PLEASANT STREET, THENCE AROUND A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH A RADIUS OF 102.51 FEET TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD WHICH BEARS SOUTH 60 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 75.57 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID RAILROAD, THENCE AROUND A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH A RADIUS OF 2808.32 FEET TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD WHICH BEARS SOUTH 30 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 29 SECONDS WEST 418.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING which also includes any interest Cascade may have in the 2020 Clayton Mobile Home, Serial Number WK1108275INAB The property is more commonly known as: 210 Pleasant Street, Hartford, Michigan 49057-1235. The redemption period shall be six (6) months unless the property is established to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of sale or fifteen (15) days from the date the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(b) was posted and mailed, or unless under MCL 600.3240(11), prior to the foreclosure sale the borrower follows the procedure set forth in that section to establish the presumption that the property is used for Agricultural purposes, in which case the redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of the sale. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under MCL 600.3201 et. seq., the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Date of notice: August 20, 2025
By: Gary D. Popovits (P63861)
Pezzetti, Vermetten, Popovits & Umulis, P.C., Attorneys for Mortgagee, 600 E. Front Street, Suite 102 - P.O. Box 5817, Traverse City, Michigan 49696-5817; (231) 929-3450 File No.: 13422.0074 Ad #2595
(8/28)(9/18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Willard Rayborn; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 25-010576; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Willard Rayborn and Cheryl Ann Rayborn, husband and wife, to Horizon Bank, FSB, Mortgagee, dated December 21, 2004 and recorded December 29, 2004 in Liber 1428, Page 516 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy and 75/100 Dollars ($45,170.75).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 25, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Breedsville, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot 6, except the West 28.8 feet thereof, also Except the East 164.9 feet of said lot, Block 15, of the original plat of Breedsville, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County.
50 W Main St, Breedsville, Michigan 49027
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: August 28, 2025
File No. 25-010576
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(08-28)(09-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Adriana Ramirez; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 524613F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Adriana Ramirez
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): SELENE FINANCE LP
Date of Mortgage: June 20, 2024
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 9, 2024
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $187,629.57
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: That part of Section 25, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, City of Gobles, Van Buren County, described as: Beginning at the Southeast Corner of Lot 13, Block 6, of the original Plat of the City of Gobles according to the Plat thereof; thence North 88 degrees 22 minutes 57 seconds West 132.00 feet along the South line of Lot 13, Block 6 of said Plat; thence North 88 degrees 18 minutes 17 seconds West 45.00 feet along the South line of Lot 14, Block 6 of said Plat; thence North 00 degrees 48 minutes 27 seconds East 84.82 feet; thence South 88 degrees 26 minutes 11 seconds East 45.00 feet to the East line of Lot 11, Block 6 of said Plat; thence South 88 degrees 26 minutes 11 seconds East 132.00 feet along the North line of the South 19.00 feet of lot 12, Block 6 of said Plat; thence South 00 degrees 48 minutes 33 seconds West 84.98 feet along the East line of Lots 12 and 13, Block 6 of said Plat to the point of beginning
Common street address (if any): 202 W Exchange St, Gobles, MI 49055-9315
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 28, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1570631
(08-28)(09-18)

Come Join us for a Trail Meeting
October 1 at 6:30pm
Antwerp Township Meeting Room
Adventure awaits on the
Antwerp Township Regional Trail
QUICK FACTS
Nearly 5 miles long beginning at the M-40/I-94 Park and Ride and ending at Root Road.
10 foot wide paved trail. Total corridor width of 16 feet to accommodate shoulders and clear space.
Utilizing I-94 Right of Way and power line easements enhances safety by limiting crossing points and minimizing impacts to undisturbed land.
+-900 feet of elevated boardwalk to cross streams and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
At narrow points where the trail is located adjacent to I-94, concrete barrier wall will be installed to ensure user safety.
Fencing proposed on each side of trail for safety of users and security for adjacent property owners.
Use allowed from sunrise to sunset.
Only non-motorized traffic permitted.
MORE QUICK FACTS
History
The earliest concept of the Paw Paw to Mattawan trail was developed as part of the 2010 Antwerp Township Pathways Plan.
Community Survey
The Antwerp Township community survey showed that 76% of respondents supported trails and bike paths, and the topic ranked in the top three most important future recreational facilities.
Trailway Budget and Funding
The construction cost estimate for the trail project is approximately $4,600,000. The Township intends to apply for grant funding from various sources to supplement its contribution.
Trails and Property Value
According to the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA), trails impact property values positively, typically between 3-5%.
Security and Safety
The trail will be regularly patrolled by the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Deputies.
Trail Maintenance
Antwerp Township will be responsible for trail maintenance, clean-up, and repairs.

VAN BUREN DISTRICT LIBRARY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 4:30 P.M. at the Van Buren District Library, Webster Memorial Branch, 200 N Phelps St, Decatur, Michigan, the District Library Board of the Van Buren District Library will hold a public hearing to consider the Library's proposed 2026 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Van Buren District Library headquarters, 200 N. Phelps Street, Decatur, Michigan. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing regarding the proposed budget.

This notice is given by order of the Van Buren District Library Board.

VAN BUREN DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD

ANTWERP TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

For Sections 1 thru 4, 9 thru 16, 22 thru 26 and 36 of the Antwerp Township (Mattawan) Fire District and Quick Response

WHEREAS, in 1967, there was created a Special Assessment Fire District for the purchase, maintenance and operation of certain fire fighting equipment.
WHEREAS, in 1998, there was created a Special Assessment Fire Ambulance District for the purchase, maintenance and operation of certain Quick Response equipment.
WHEREAS, in 2020 the two Departments merge into Antwerp Township Fire/Quick Response Department.
The Township held a hearing on September 9th and major of the Board felt to increase levy to maintain services of Fire/Quick Response Equipment for only that part of the Antwerp Township District, serviced by the **Mattawan Fire/Quick Response Department, approximately $537,009.87 per annum.**
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Antwerp Township Board hereby determines that the lots and premises in the area serviced by the **Mattawan Fire/Quick Response District** are described as follows:
Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 36, all in Antwerp Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, shall constitute a special assessment district for said purpose.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Antwerp Township Board hereby determines that the special assessment levy shall be up to **1.5 mills** for 2025 and hereby directs the Antwerp Township Supervisor to spread the same upon all of the lands and premises in the above described district, which are to be especially benefited by the fire/ems protection/ service, in the manner required by law.

Dated: September 12, 2025
Chantel Reyna
Antwerp Township Clerk
September 18, 2025

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• AUCTION •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 9/30/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Chris Beeman, 10; Erin Hagenbuch, 55; Daniel Hossler, 234.

• PUPPIES •

GREAT PYRENEES, 2 MALES, all shots and neutered, 6 months old. $600 each. 269-767-6105.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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